



BULLETIN

Volume 8, Issue 3

Providing for Michigan's Safety in the Built Environment

May 2003

DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Henry L. Green

On March 26th, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm and CIS Director David C. Hollister announced the consolidation of the Bureau of Construction Codes and the Office of Fire Safety. The emphasis of this consolidation is to improve the efficiency of these agencies to customers and to eliminate duplicative functions.

Governor Granholm noted, "the merger makes perfect sense since both the Office of Fire Safety and the Bureau of Construction Codes oversee public buildings such as schools, colleges, and universities as well as child care, adult foster care, correctional and health facilities."

Director Hollister said, "bringing the two entities together will ensure consistent regulations and uniform standards are in place as the new Bureau of Construction Codes and Fire Safety."

This consolidation is of particular interest in light of the recent amendments to the School Construction Law, 1937 PA 306. School buildings will now be reviewed and inspected under a single set of construction regulations in a unified process that contains on-going operational standards for the safety of all school children. Providing this type of standard application will provide cost savings in the initial construction of buildings and result in improvements achieved through a consistent set of standards enhancing life safety within these buildings.

(Continued on Page 2)

The New Plumbing Law, 2002 PA 733

*by Robert G. Konyndyk, Chief
Plumbing Division*

The new state plumbing law became effective March 31, 2003. The major change was the licensing of contractors and registration of apprentices. Existing master plumbers have the opportunity of contractor grandfathering when appropriate. A licensing summary was mailed to inspectors and authorized masters in early March.

Master plumbers not in the plumbing business for 3 of the past 5 years are required to take the contractor's examination. It is anticipated the first contractor's examination will be conducted in June. Please check the "What's New" section of the bureau's web site at www.michigan.gov/bccfs for updated information. The examination will consist of 50 multiple choice questions addressing the new law, 2002 PA 733, the Stille-DeRossett-Hale Single State Construction Code Act, 1972 PA 230, and Chapter 1 of the Michigan Plumbing Code.

Plumbing apprentices shall register as soon as possible. An application for registration was mailed along with the contractor's grandfather application to all master plumbers in late April.

A plumbing affidavit form is available for businesses, schools or factories which designate a master plumber to supervise plumbing work.

Individuals having questions may review the act or obtain the necessary forms from the bureau's web site at www.michigan.gov/bccfs.

The Bureau remains committed to providing quality training programs to organizations upon request.

Questions may be directed to Robert Konyndyk, Chief, Plumbing Division, 517/241-9330.

Recent Backflow Preventer Issues

*by Robert G. Konyndyk, Chief
Plumbing Division*

The Plumbing Division has been informed of two critical areas relating to backflow prevention violations which compromise public health and safety.

The State Plumbing Board's recognized training entity is the Michigan Plumbing & Mechanical Contractors Association (MPMCA) who assigns certification numbers following an individual's training. MPMCA has received several calls that a few trained individuals have signed test reports for other uncertified testers. That is unacceptable and those individuals misrepresenting test reports should be reported to the plumbing chief for board action. Backflow prevention certification is similar to a plumbing license or driver's license in that any other individual shall not use it.

The second critical issue reported by MPMCA is construction sites obtaining temporary water from hose barbs connected to backflow preventer test ports. Licensees finding such connections should disconnect those connections and inform the water purveyor immediately.

Questions may be directed to the Plumbing Division at 517/241-9330.



"Serving Michigan... Serving You"

Director's Column, continued...

Michigan Fire Fighters' Union and the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs supported this merger, which will result in the development of consistent construction and fire safety standards to avoid duplication and overlap. The new bureau will work to achieve consistency through uniform construction standards for all occupancy types. The standards for places of public assembly, office buildings, child care centers, and correctional and health facilities must be reviewed and developed in a manner to ensure the safety of the building occupants while achieving a reduction in overlaps and redundancies inherent in the current standards.

The code development process, currently underway to update the Michigan construction codes, is an opportunity to achieve the consistency and compatibility in the construction and operational standards used in Michigan. Additional efforts are being addressed to review the fire safety standards in the Michigan Fire Prevention Code to provide for the operational systems in buildings that are based on the initial construction standards set forth in the codes. We appreciate the support and the confidence placed in the agency to carry out the consolidation and the development of standards for *Michigan's Safety in the Built Environment*.

The *BULLETIN* is a quarterly publication of the Bureau of Construction Codes & Fire Safety within the Michigan Department of Consumer & Industry Services.

Editor-in-Chief: **Henry L. Green**
Editor: **Beth Hunter Aben**

Bureau of
Construction Codes &
Fire Safety
P.O. Box 30254
Lansing, MI 48909

(517) 241-9313
Fax (517) 241-9308
www.michigan.gov/bccfs

**Providing for
Michigan's Safety
in the Built Environment**

LP Tank Installations

by *Tennison B. Barry, Chief
Mechanical Division*

This article is written to address questions that have been asked by contractors and inspectors regarding LP tank installation. Below are questions, the answers, and where the answers come from.

Q: Who is responsible to paint or coat the black pipe that is stubbed out of the house for the second stage regulator attachment as indicated in the Michigan Residential Code, Chapter 24, Section G2414.8 (404.8)?

A: By law, the company who secured the permit for the pipe installation is responsible. However, if another company accepts the installation as being correct and installs its regulator and equipment it then becomes the responsibility of that company.

Q: What is the minimum distance a regulator must be from a source of ignition?

A: It is not the regulator but the regulator vent that is the issue. NFPA 58, 1998 edition, section 3-2.7.5 requires the regulator vent to be 5 feet from any source of ignition.

Q: Is a decal having the propane company's name and telephone number required to be on a tank?

A: There is no code provision. The 1995 edition of NFPA 58 included a provision which was not adopted by the State of Michigan. Currently the 1998 edition of NFPA 58 is enforced in Michigan.

The above questions are just a few question that are regularly asked concerning LP tank installations. A pamphlet containing the 40 most-asked questions concerning the installation of LP tanks and piping may be obtained by contacting the Michigan Propane Gas Association at 517-487-2021.

If you have any question you may also contact Tennison Barry at 517/241-9325.

If you are receiving duplicate copies of the BCCFS Bulletin, prefer to print a copy from our web site, or no longer wish to receive a copy please e-mail the bureau at bccinfo@michigan.gov. Please provide your license/registration number(s).

Program Providers and Instructors

by *Scott D. Fisher, Director
Office of Local Government and Consumer Services*

The current approval of all continuing education programs and program instructors expire on September 16, 2003. The bureau is now accepting program and instructor applications for the period **beginning September 17, 2003, and ending September 16, 2006**. For your convenience, both program and instructor applications have been placed on the Forms page of the bureau's web site at www.michigan.gov/bccfs.

Upon receipt, the bureau will process all applications. Those that are approved by staff will be presented to the Construction Code Commission on September 10, 2003, for final approval. Approval letters will be sent immediately following the Commission meeting with an effective date of September 17, 2003. No program approved for the code cycle beginning September 17, 2003, and ending September 16, 2006, should be conducted prior to September 17, 2003.

Individuals who submit applications that are not approved by staff will be informed as to what information is required for approval.

If you are submitting an application for a program that contains instructional material relating to the 2003 edition of the International code(s) and/or the 2002 National Electrical Code, your submission must contain a statement indicating that the program will incorporate the applicable Michigan amendments upon enactment and that modifications to the program will be submitted to the bureau.

If you wish to submit a program application for a new program that you will be conducting prior to September 17, 2003, it will be necessary for you to insert the words "**1999-2003 cycle**" at the top of the first page of the application.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Local Government and Consumer Services at 517/241-9347.

State offices will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

May 26 - Memorial Day
July 4 - Independence Day

Boiler Accidents

by Robert J. Aben, Jr., Chief
Boiler Division

The Boiler Division receives approximately 15 to 20 accident reports per year. Fortunately, most of these are not catastrophic failures and do not result in personal injuries. The Michigan boiler rules define accident as "... a sudden and accidental breakdown of a boiler or a part of a boiler resulting in physical damage . . ." Rule 163 places the responsibility for reporting the accident on the owner or user of the boiler. Either the owner's boiler insurance inspector or a state deputy inspector must investigate the accident before the boiler or any of its parts are moved or repaired. It is imperative that the investigation takes place before the boiler is disturbed in order to collect evidence important to determining the cause of the incident.

Although the rules identify the owner or user as the party responsible for reporting an accident, any licensee involved in the replacement or repair of a boiler as a result of an accident should question their contacts regarding the reporting requirements. Timely reporting and investigation of an accident benefits the boiler owner and the industry by revealing information that may be used to correct or modify requirements for better control over operating boilers.

Questions may be directed to the Boiler Division at 517/241-9334.

Premanufactured Unit Permitting

by Irvin J. Poke, Chief
Plan Review Division

When issuing permits for premanufactured units, a local enforcing agency can mitigate problems by following a few simple steps. It is very useful to have a section on the permit application that will identify the use of a premanufactured unit. On the state application there is a check box in the section for the description of work. The key is to request and review the information in the Premanufactured Unit General Rules Part 11, rule 1142 before issuing the permit.

Rule 1142 allows the enforcing agency to request a description of the work, the

Scheduled Board Meetings

MEETING	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
State Plumbing Board	June 3	10:00 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 2
Electrical Administrative Board	June 6	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 1
Elevator Safety Board	June 6	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 3
Board of Boiler Rules	June 10	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 2
Manufactured Housing Commission	June 18	10:00 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 3
Board of Mechanical Rules	June 25	9:00 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 3
Construction Code Commission	July 9	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 3
Barrier Free Design Board	July 11	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Ste. 116 Conf. Room
State Fire Safety Board	July 16	1:00 p.m.	General Office Building
State Plumbing Board	July 23	8:15 a.m.	Escanaba
Manufactured Housing Commission	July 30	10:00 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 3
Electrical Administrative Board	August 1	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 1
Board of Mechanical Rules	August 27	9:00 a.m.	Okemos, Conf. Room 3

Okemos - 2501 Woodlake Circle, Okemos
General Office Building - 7150 Harris Drive, Lansing, Conference Room B
Escanaba - Upper Peninsula State Fair

License Exam Schedule

EXAMINATION	DATE	LOCATION	DEADLINE
Journeyman Electrician	June 16, 17 & 18	Okemos	May 19
Master Electrician	June 19	Okemos	May 21
Elevator Journeyperson	July 16	Okemos	June 26
Master and Journey Plumbers	July 24	Escanaba	June 24
Mechanical Contractor	August 5	Escanaba	July 8
Master and Journey Plumbers	September 3	East Lansing	August 4
Boiler Installer & Repairer	September 3 & 4	Okemos	August 3
Boiler National Board	September 3 & 4	Okemos	August 3
Elevator Contractor & Certificate-of-Competency	September 5	Okemos	August 15
Mechanical Contractor	September 17	Lansing	August 19
Journeyman Electrician	September 18	Escanaba	August 21
Master Electrician	September 18	Escanaba	August 21

Dates and locations are subject to change.

Building System Approval Report (BSAR) and the approved building system. The description of work shall identify and detail the onsite work that is necessary to complete the installation of a premanufactured unit. The BSAR provides the basic information regarding an approved unit. The information includes the manufacturer's information, the model name and description, the building use group, design criteria and limitations of approval. The approved building system is the approved plans and specifications.

The building official should issue the permit only after reviewing the aforementioned information and determining that the unit is being used in accordance with the approval. For example, the proposed use shall be consistent with the use group on the BSAR and the design criteria must be appropriate for the geographic location.

Once the permit is issued the onsite work and unit shall be inspected for compliance with the code. The enforcing agency shall not conduct any inspection requiring destruction of the unit. Any violations that are found in the unit that were caused during the manufacturing shall be reported to the bureau on the "Notice Of Premanufactured Violation" form. This form can be obtained on our web site.

It is important to note that a premanufactured unit shall not be altered before a certificate of occupancy is issued in accordance with rule 1139. The alteration of an approved unit before the certificate of occupancy is issued is a violation that voids the approval. The primary intent of the rule is to assure that the chain of responsibility is intact until the building is completed.

Questions may be directed to the Plan Review Division at 517/241-9328.

Electrical Affidavit Requirements

by Stella Morris, Chief
Electrical Division

The Electrical Division frequently receives applications from individuals employed by a factory to take the electrical journeyman or master examination. The purpose of this article is to clarify the applicability of the electrical affidavit relative to the licensing requirements and provisions for licensing of individuals employed by and performing electrical work within industrial, commercial, or institutional facilities; and, permits for electrical installations in such facilities, as set forth in the Michigan Electrical Administrative Act, 1956 PA 217.

After a determination by the Electrical Administrative Board that the Act equally applied to work performed by employees of an electrical contractor and work performed by employees of an institution or business, amendments to the Act resulted in promulgation of new rules adopted by the Board in April 1994.

The new rules resulted in the formulation of an electrical affidavit policy. The affidavit form is recognized and used in lieu of an electrical contractor license. Rule 338.1039a of the general rules, prescribes the requirements for acknowledgment by affidavit, of qualifying representation for a business or institution.

Section 338.885(5)(1) of the Act prescribes licensing requirements for all electrical installations and states:

"Except as otherwise provided in this section and in section 7, a person, firm, or corporation shall not install any electric wiring, devices, appliances, or appurtenances for the generation, distribution, and utilization of electrical energy, within or on any building, structures or properties, without being licensed. In a municipality where inspection service is provided a permit shall be obtained from the board or municipality having jurisdiction."

Section 338.887 prescribes the requirements for persons, firms, or corporations engaging in the business of electrical contracting. Section 338.887(3) lists the exceptions to contractor licensing, and does not exclude persons performing work on industrial, commercial, or institutional facilities and

premises owned by a person, firm or corporation.

To qualify for licensing examination or apprentice registration a person is required to:

- Complete the application form for the classification of license - journeyman, master, or apprentice registration.

- Provide notarized documentation from the employer (electrical contractor) verifying the employment of the applicant as an apprentice or journeyman with electrical experience under licensed supervision.

For employees of industrial or institutional facilities, the affidavit is used in lieu of an electrical contractor license. The signature of the master electrician on the affidavit provides the licensing agency a means to verify the employment of licensed persons for supervision and letters of verification will bear the signature of the master electrician and the employer.

Additionally, the affidavit is used in lieu of an electrical contractor license to enable a business to perform as their own contractor for obtaining permits, rather than using an outside contractor. When a master electrician is representing one business with the license, the Act does not permit the master to represent a second business at the same time.

Persons licensed as a journeyman or master electrician must perform all electrical installations and electrical maintenance. Apprentices may also perform electrical installations and maintenance, but must be under the direct personal supervision of a licensed journeyman or master electrician at the jobsite.

Applications to take the licensing examination from persons employed by industrial, commercial, or institutional facilities which do not have an affidavit filed with the State of Michigan are denied due to lack of qualified licensed supervision.

When an application is denied the Electrical Division takes the following measures:

1. Notifies the applicant of the denial and reason for the denial.
2. Notifies the employer of the applicant's denial and an order to cease from performing electrical work until compliance to the law can be achieved; or, hire an electrical contractor to perform the work. Noncompliance could result in penalties prescribed by Section 338.890 of the Act.
3. Notifies the local enforcing authority of noncompliance of licensing and permitting

requirements.

Questions may be directed to the Electrical Division at 517/241-9320.

Townhouses

by Larry Lehman, Chief
Building Division

Townhouses are defined within the Michigan Residential Code (MRC) as "A single-family dwelling unit constructed in a group of three or more attached units in which each unit extends from foundation to roof and with open space on at least two sides." Furthermore, R101.2 Scope, limits the applicability of the MRC to townhouses not more than three stories in height with a separate means of egress. Where the design of the structure exceeds the previously mentioned criteria, such as dwelling units separated by floor-ceiling assemblies, they must then be constructed to the Michigan Building Code (MBC) including stair geometry and accessibility requirements. Additionally, the Michigan Electrical, Mechanical, and Plumbing Codes are applicable when the MBC is used.

When designing structures to the MBC another important consideration is section 310 which limits buildings classified as group R-3 to buildings of two dwelling units or less. Thus, whenever there are three or more dwellings units in a building, it must be classified as group R-2.

Questions may be directed to the Building Division at 517/241-9317.

New Bureau Web Site Address

As the result of the merger of the Bureau of Construction Codes and the Office of Fire Safety the bureau's Internet site address has changed. The new web site address is **www.michigan.gov/bccfs**.

Over the next several months the site will be restructured to combine similar functions. The bureau's intent is to provide customers with the latest bureau news, forms that can be completed on-line, and in-depth examination and licensing information.

Required Information in Machine Rooms

by Calvin W. Rogler, Chief
Elevator Safety Division

The Elevator Safety Division has received several calls pertaining to what ongoing information is necessary to maintain in the elevator machine room. At this time only the requirements of the rule below will be addressed. However, depending on the type of elevator and the equipment involved other rules may require additional information to be maintained and accessible in the elevator machine room. In addressing the question we supply the following rule should be noted:

R 408.8205 Servicing and examination of power elevators; frequency; exception.

Rule 205. A power elevator, except a private residence elevator and a private residence inclined lift, shall be serviced and examined for defects by a licensed elevator journeyman at least once every 90 days, except for the following devices which shall be serviced and examined at least once every 180 days:

- (a) Dumbwaiters.
- (b) One-person elevators, electric-powered.
- (c) Wheelchair-elevating devices in buildings other than private residences.
- (d) Inclined lifts in buildings other than private residences.

An accessible written record of all service and examination shall be maintained in the machine room or on-site if a machine room does not exist.

The last sentence of the rule above requires that an accessible written record of **all service** and **examination** be maintained in the machine room. If there is **no** machine room, then the record must be maintained on-site and be accessible. The Elevator Safety Division has no form for this purpose; however the bureau accepts most written records if the necessary information is included. The bureau expects this record to list the state serial number of the elevator that the report is for and include entries for the required scheduled servicing and examination required by rule 205 above. On the written record the bureau expects to find, the name of the elevator company providing service, the date of the service, a brief explanation of the service or examination that was provided, and the

legible signature and license number of the licensed elevator journeyman who performed the work on that date. The rule requires **all** service and examination, which means the bureau expects entries for all other service performed on the elevator or escalator. This would include all call back service, during both normal and overtime and any emergency repair service. This record is usually kept in the form of a log and must not be removed, even if the elevator company servicing the elevator is changed. On occasion the journeyman locks the written record in a parts cabinet. This method would not meet the requirements because the report would not be accessible for the elevator inspector to review.

Questions may be directed to the Elevator Safety Division at 517/241-9337.

Enforcing Agency Permit Issuance

by Michael Evans, Assistant Chief
Plumbing Division

The backlog of permits has been a continual problem for enforcing agencies. This problem is caused in part due to people being allowed to occupy new homes without all of the necessary inspections or approvals. Giving a temporary occupancy without time line for the completion of necessary inspections causes delays in the conduct of inspections as no one places priority on the need for the follow-up inspections. When applying for permits, the enforcing agency should advise the applicant that all inspections must be completed and approved prior to occupancy. The final inspection of the electrical, mechanical and plumbing systems should occur prior to the issuance of the certificate of occupancy.

When inspections are conducted and approved, a sticker is typically placed in a visible location indicating the system (plumbing, electrical or mechanical) has received the appropriate approval. This may include a rough approval or the final inspection. Local enforcing agencies displaying samples of rough and final stickers at the permit office would help permit applicants recognize these approval notices.

The recognition and notification of requirements for final inspection approval would help reduce the number of open permits. Including language in permits and

when temporary certificates are issued would offer a notice to the permit applicant of the need to follow up and have final inspections performed. Some inspectors have arrived at homes that have been occupied for a period of time, sometimes as long as a year or more.

When temporary occupancy is authorized, a period of time (such as 30 to perhaps 90 days) should be included to assure the required final inspections, such as electrical, mechanical and plumbing are complete and the final approval is given on the installation. Approval from electrical, mechanical and plumbing inspectors that the specific installation is safe for temporary occupancy is required before temporary occupancy is authorized.

Sections 110.1 of the Michigan Building Code and Michigan Residential Code provide specific language on the use and occupancy of buildings and structures.

"A building or structure shall not be used or occupied, and a change in the existing occupancy classification of a building or structure or portion thereof shall not be made until a certificate of occupancy has been issued in accordance with section 13 of the act" (Stille-DeRossett-Hale Single State Construction Code).

2003 State Grants for Survey and Remonumentation

by Maynard R. Dyer, Director
Office of Land Survey and Remonumentation

The Office of Land Survey and Remonumentation is happy to report that all 83 counties have filed their grant applications and will receive a state grant in 2003 for survey and remonumentation of original government survey corners. 2003 is the eleventh year that such grants have been made to Michigan counties. This year the grants offered total 6 million dollars. These program grant funds are taken from the survey and remonumentation fund in the state treasury. The money in the fund is from a recording fee of \$2 per instrument collected by each county Register of Deeds as authorized by 1990 PA 346. The State Survey and Remonumentation Act provides for these grants and for remonumentation of all property controlling corners over a period of 20 years.

How to Contact the Bureau of Construction Codes & Fire Safety

Mailing & Physical Addresses, Fax Numbers, Web Site Address, Telephone Numbers

Mailing Addresses:

P.O. Box 30254 (Codes: general correspondence)
 P.O. Box 30255 (Codes: permits, licenses, and other documents containing payment)
 P.O. Box 30700 (Office of Fire Safety)
 P.O. Box 30704 (Office of Land Survey and Remonumentation)
 P.O. Box 30222 (Office of Local Government and Consumer Services)
 Lansing, Michigan 48909

Physical Addresses:

2501 Woodlake Circle, Okemos (Administration; Office of Administrative Services; Office of Management Services; Boiler Division; Building Division; Electrical Division; Elevator Safety Division; Mechanical Division; Plan Review Division; and Plumbing Division)
7150 Harris Drive, Lansing (Office of Fire Safety)
6546 Mercantile Way, Lansing (Office of Local Government and Consumer Services; and Office of Land Survey and Remonumentation)

Fax Numbers:

Administration - (517) 241-9570
 Codes - (517) 241-9308
 Office of Fire Safety - (517) 322-1356
 Office of Land Survey and Remonumentation - (517) 241-6301
 Office of Local Government and Consumer Services - (517) 241-6371

Web site: www.michigan.gov/bccfs

Telephone Numbers:

Administration	517/241-9302
Office of Administrative Services (OAS)	517/335-2972
Office of Management Services (OMS)	517/241-9313
Boiler Division	517/241-9334
Building Division	517/241-9317
Electrical Division	517/241-9320
Elevator Safety Division	517/241-9337
Mechanical Division	517/241-9325
Office of Fire Safety (OFS)	517/322-1123
Office of Local Government and Consumer Services (OLGCS)	517/241-9347
Office of Land Survey and Remonumentation (OLSR)	517/241-6300
Plan Review Division	517/241-9328
Plumbing Division	517/241-9330

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